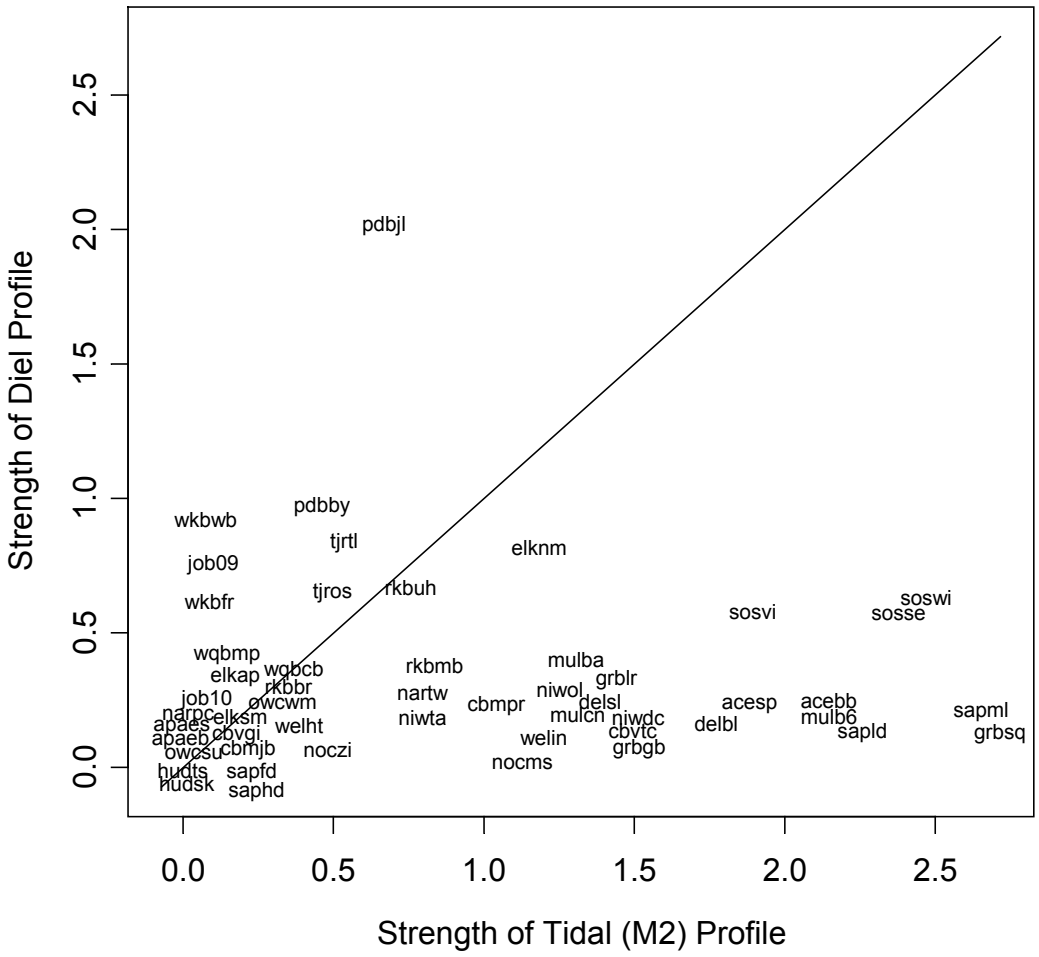

Figure 45. Diel vs. tidal force influence on salinity, NERR SWMP 1995-2000.

Three sites were excluded from this comparison due to shortage of data (Figure 45). Recall that the salinity analyses from phase one should be interpreted cautiously due to frequent freshwater intrusion events that create inconsistencies in the cyclic fluctuations at some sites. A large number of sites lie near the origin in this plot, suggesting that salinity is not very consistently cyclic at these sites. Salinity at a handful of sites seems to be more influenced by diel influences than tidal forces; these sites include the Padilla Bay, Weeks Bay, and Tijuana River sites, and the Jobos Bay – 09 site. Not surprisingly, more sites seem to be tidally-dominated for salinity; among these, the most extreme examples of strong tidal influence on salinity include the Great Bay – Squamscott River site, the South Slough and ACE Basin sites, the Sapelo Island Marsh Landing and Lower Duplin sites, and the Mullica River – Buoy 126 site.